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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

LIBRARY
AUG 23 1951
11-4-49
NO. 370

STILL TIME FOR 1949 CONSERVATION PRACTICES - Time is running out in which soil and water conservation practices can be carried out under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program, says _____, chairman of the _____ county FMA Committee. He urges farmers to concentrate their efforts on those practices which still can be completed.

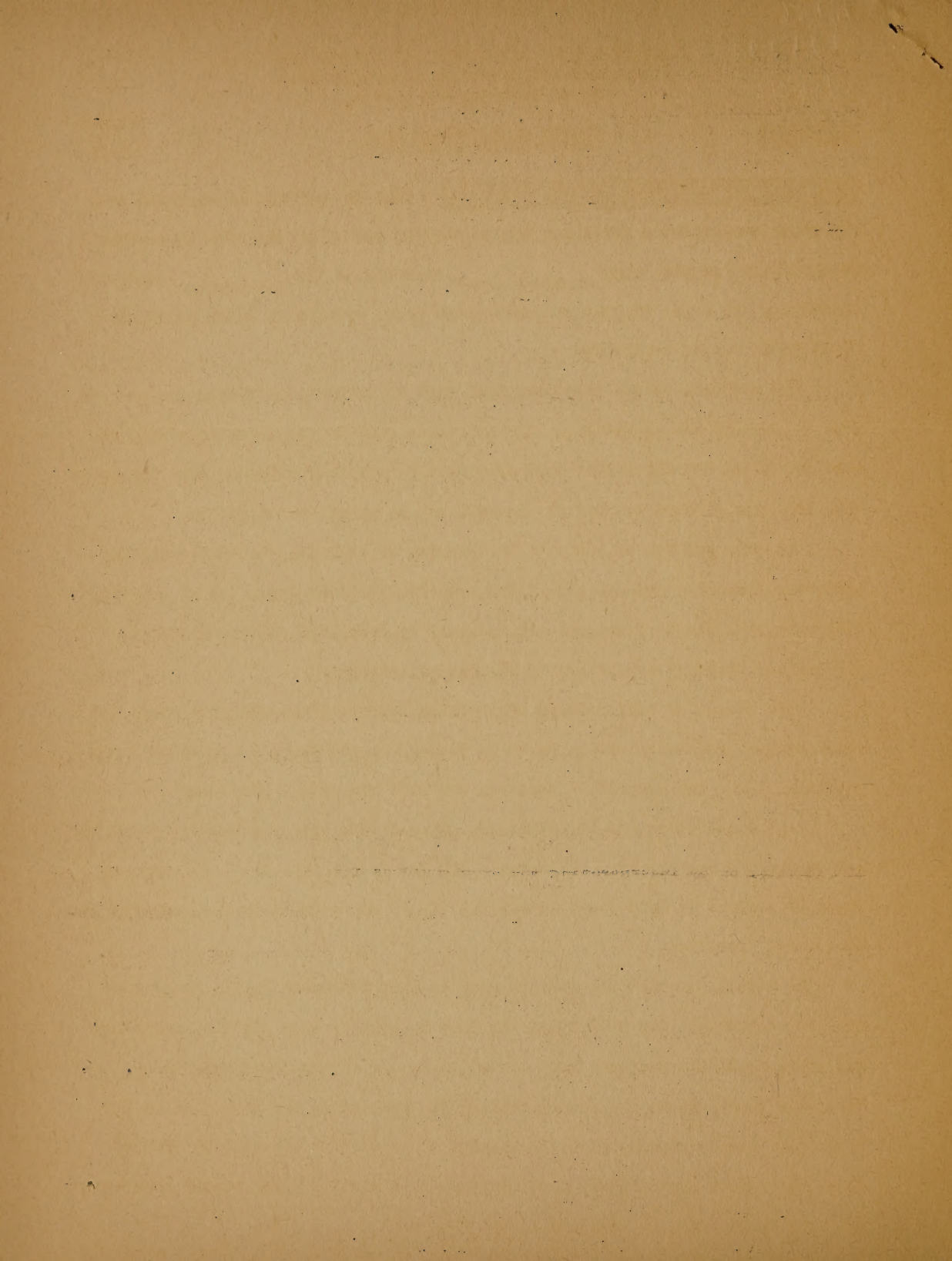
The chairman states that practices must be carried out within the program year to qualify for assistance. The practices must be completed according to specifications and the farmer must provide the necessary evidence that the practice has been carried out before approval can be given for payments.

The only purpose of payments to farmers, he explains, is to provide the necessary financial help to get needed conservation work done. As he puts it, "The mere intentions of farmers with respect to farm conservation don't stop erosion nor build up resistance to blowing and washing.

"The people of this country are helping farmers financially to carry out conservation practices. It is up to us to get the job done. We have the responsibility to use the program to conserve our soil and water resources."

Assistance under ACP, he explains, makes it possible for farmers to carry out the needed conservation practices. The government shares in the cost -- about 50 percent in most cases -- and the farmer is responsible for carrying out the needed practice.

He points out that all farmers whether they cooperate in the program or not are responsible for protecting the land against erosion and for conserving and using available moisture most effectively. As the chairman sums it up, "Upon the farmer rests the responsibility for protecting the land just as the individual has a responsibility in helping to protect the country in time of war. The forces that destroy land are just as damaging as the atomic bomb -- the only difference, it takes a little longer."



FOUR WAYS TO STOP EROSION - There are only about four practical ways for farmers to stop soil erosion, according to _____, chairman of the _____ county PMA Committee: construction of barriers to check the movement of water, improvement of sod, addition of humus to the soil, and the use of materials to promote soil-holding plant growth.

By construction, the chairman said he refers to such conservation practices as terraces, dams, contouring dikes and spreader ditches. The purpose of these practices is to check the run-off by placing a barrier across its course and by providing for disposal of excess water on sod or where damage can be kept to a minimum. This type of conservation practice is needed for cultivated crops on hillsides or sloping land, on waterways that have begun to erode, and on land that washes easily.

The establishing of a good sod is one of the best ways of checking erosion. The sod breaks the fall of the raindrops and keeps them from breaking up the surface soil structure. By slowing down the run-off, more of the water soaks into the soil to promote increased plant growth and the roots of the growing plants hold the soil together. Sod, also, is about the most effective means of controlling wind erosion.

Restoring humus to the soil by plowing under green manure, using a sod crop in rotation, or by incorporating the crop residues into the surface soil, strengthens resistance to erosion. Humus helps maintain the needed soil structure, holding sand and clay particles together in clusters like miniature popcorn balls. When the soil structure is broken down, the tiny separate grains are easily washed or blown away. The use of lime and fertilizers is an essential part of the conservation process because they stimulate the growth of grass and legumes. These crops provide sod cover protection and add humus.

FACE-LIFTING ON 3 MILLION FARMS - While attention has been focused on a few farm "face lifting" demonstrations to stress conservation needs and methods, the real measure of conservation progress is in the fact that one in every two of the nation's farmers is carrying out at least one conservation practice under the Agricultural Conservation Program, says W. Leslie Martin, chairman of the New Mexico FMA Committee.

According to the chairman, conservation work is being carried out on more than 3 million farms under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Summarizing accomplishments, the chairman points out that in the period from 1936 through 1947, farmers cooperating in the ACP have: constructed 738 miles of terraces to check run-off and hold the soil; seeded 37 million acres of pasture and range to soil-conserving grasses and legumes; grown 200 million acres of green manure and cover crops to protect the land and restore humus; planted 627,000 acres of trees to protect the soil against wind and water erosion; farmed 112 million acres of row and close grown crops on the contour as a protection against erosion; applied 186 million tons of liming materials to sweeten the land for a more vigorous growth of grass and legumes, which provide the best kind of soil protection; put on 15-3/4 million tons of superphosphate to insure added soil protection from pastures and meadows; and constructed 730,000 dams to check erosion and provide stockwater and irrigation storage. (Insert a summary of county practices.)

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FARM BRIEFS - Farmers are now using more than twice as many tractors as they did before the war. At the beginning of 1949, we had 3½ million tractors; in 1940, we had 1½ million.

***The shift from animal power to mechanical power since 1920 has released about 60 million acres of cropland that once produced feed for horses and mules.

***Production per acre is now averaging 20 to 25 percent more than it did during 1935 to 1939. Contributing to this development are improved varieties of seed -- such as hybrid seed corn, increases in use of lime and fertilizer, more cover crops and other conservation practices, improved mechanical power and the adaptability of equipment to that power.

****Total farm production for 1949 will be the second largest in the Nation's history and about 40 percent above the average of prewar years.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

LIBRARY
SERIAL RECORD
AUG 23 1951
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NO. 371

DIVERTED ACRES - What farmers do with diverted acres -- the land taken out of allotment crops -- may well determine future margins of profit or loss and the prosperity of agriculture as a whole, says W. Leslie Martin, chairman of the New Mexico FMA Committee.

The chairman points out that if these acres are seeded to crops that are now in plentiful supply, it can only result in surpluses of these crops. To illustrate, he points out that farmers who cut their wheat acreage to keep within the wheat allotment and then put the land taken out of wheat into barley, the result will be a surplus of barley.

The same holds true of grain sorghums. Any significant shift of acreage to grain sorghum production could easily result in a flooded market, insufficient storage, and a real surplus problem.

And to leave the land idle is no solution, says the chairman, for this creates new problems. Unprotected land is an erosion hazard both from wind and water. Erosion started on idle land may cut back into the rest of the farm. Not only is the income from this land cut off but the land itself becomes less valuable each year. Uncontrolled weeds go to seed and spread to other parts of the farm.

To disregard acreage allotments also is no solution to the problem. The farmer who does this is not fair to the others who cooperate. If enough farmers disregard acreage programs, surpluses continue to pile up, land is wasted and price support efforts must eventually break down. That is why eligibility for price supports depends on seeding within the allotment, the chairman explains.

The only safe out, says the chairman, is to put diverted acres to work growing grass and legumes for seed and feed. Then the farmer is protecting his land and providing for a future income. Price supports for needed legume and

grass seed and conservation payments for seeding land to grasses and legumes are Production and Marketing Administration program operations to help farmers accomplish these objectives, the chairman explains.

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CHAIRMAN URGES PLANNING FOR 1950 ACP - Farmers of _____ county who plan well ahead of the time the conservation practices to be carried out, will be able to use the Agricultural Conservation Program most effectively in meeting their conservation problems, says _____, chairman of the county FMA Committee.

He points out that the practices and specifications for 1950 ACP differ little from those for 1949, and primary effort in _____ county will be in the direction of encouraging farmers to gear these practices to their most essential conservation needs.

Farmers cooperating in the 1950 program are urged to study the conservation problems of their farms and to plan their programs for the coming year so as to take care of first needs first.

Conservation problems which need special attention in _____ county, according to the chairman, are: (Fill in the details of the most serious conservation problems.) And these will receive special attention in the year ahead.

Practices for 1950 which will receive special emphasis are: (List practices which are most needed.)

The county chairman warns farmers that it is easy to "get in a rut" in their conservation work by carrying out routine practices year after year, overlooking those which fit into a year-to-year conservation effort aimed at continued balanced production.

The chairman refers to the use of lime and phosphate to illustrate his point. Both may be needed to keep the land "strong" and to build up resistance to erosion through increasing the growth of grass and legumes. But other

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practices may be needed to make the lime and phosphate effective in contributing to the main conservation objective. A pasture may need to be reseeded or a shift to contour farming may be necessary. The chairman urges each farmer to study his farm and with the help of his local committeeman to plan to use the ACP in 1950 where it will do the most good.

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SKIMMING THE CREAM OFF YOUR LAND - Is erosion skimming the cream off your land? Is the layer of topsoil getting thinner and thinner each year? Are you getting down to bedrock on your farm?

With these pointed questions, _____, chairman of the _____ county FMA Committee, warns the farmers of the county that something more than a fence and a deed is needed to hold a farm.

He points out that too often erosion is not considered a serious problem until deep gullies cut back into the farm. But in many instances it's the sheet erosion -- the skimming off the cream -- that causes the greatest damage. Tons and tons of topsoil may be carried away by sheet erosion without attracting much attention.

Sheet erosion, he explains, often goes unnoticed because it is a low, steady unspectacular process. On unprotected land the rain drops break down the surface structure and the tiny soil particles are carried away in the water. The water running down a furrow left by the cultivator may seem relatively harmless but the soil particles which discolor it are the cream of the land.

Even though the process is unspectacular, says the chairman, it often doesn't take too many years to strip a farm down to the hardpan subsoil where nothing is done to keep the surface soil from washing away. One inch of topsoil from the surface of an acre will weigh about 140 to 150 tons. And yet, an annual loss of 50 tons to the acre is not uncommon on clean cultivated land where the rainfall is fairly heavy.

Both the farmer and the nation lose when the topsoil is gone, chairman

_____ points out. The farmer and his family depending on this land for a living are finding it more and more difficult to find other land to move to, and each worn out area is becoming more and more important to the increasing number of people who depend upon productive land for their food. The way it averages out at the present time when the farmer allows erosion to take his farm, the nation has lost the source of food and other farm commodities for 14 or 15 people.

The Agricultural Conservation Program, says the chairman, is the spearhead of the nation's efforts to keep the land productive, a cooperative effort between city people and farmers to insure enough food for the future.

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1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is argued that a knowledge of the past is essential for a full understanding of the present and for the development of a sound policy for the future. The author points out that the study of history is not only a means of satisfying a natural curiosity about the past, but also a means of developing a sense of responsibility for the future.

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Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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POTATO ALLOTMENTS, PRICE SUPPORTS SET - A State potato acreage allotment of 1000 acres for 1950 was announced recently by W. Leslie Martin, Chairman of the Production and Marketing Administration Committee. This compares with 900 acres for 1949.

State commercial acreage allotments are generally reduced from those for 1949 to comply with the national commercial potato acreage allotment of 1,137,800 acres for 1950. This is a national reduction of 85,300 acres or 7 percent below 1949.

Because of higher yields, however, the 1950 production allotment of 335 million bushels is only 4 percent less than in 1949 and would provide an average per capita potato supply of about 110 pounds per capita, compared with a use of 103 pounds from the 1948 crop. The 1949 crop is estimated at 387 million bushels.

Mr. Martin pointed out that price supports on the 1950 crop of Irish potatoes will be at 60 percent of parity, the same as for the 1949 crop, according to a recent announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan.

Based on the new method of computing parity provided by the Agricultural Act of 1949, the average 1950 support price is now estimated at about 96 cents per bushel. The actual support price will be based on the parity level as of January 1, 1950. The average support for 1949-crop potatoes was about \$1.08 per bushel.

In making the announcement on potato price supports and allotments, Secretary Brannan said:

"Basically, this potato program is the same as that we had last year. When I announced that one, setting the support price at 60 percent of parity, I did so reluctantly. Merely reducing the price will not accomplish a balance

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of production and consumption, and it will cut farm income. However, no new method or device for relating supply to demand or for disposing of surpluses is open to us under existing law.

"Price support on potatoes is mandatory. The only practicable method now available to apply this mandatory support is Government purchase. Although the Department does not purchase potatoes grown by farmers who overplant their acreage allotments, the effect of the purchases is unavoidably to hold up the price of all potatoes.

"Under these circumstances, the success of the program depends on the cooperation of producers. On behalf of the general public and of those producers who want to prevent another wasteful surplus of potatoes, and to protect the future of the program, I appeal to all growers to plant within the acreage allotments established for them."

Growers were also reminded that the development and use of marketing agreements and orders in all commercial producing areas would be prerequisite to eligibility for price support.

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CORN PROSPECTS DECLINE, BUT NEAR-RECORD FORECAST - Reports of corn yields lower than were expected earlier have reduced the 1949 corn crop estimate to 3,358 million bushels. This is a drop of 119 million bushels below predictions a month ago and 8 percent below last year's record high of 3,651 million bushels, but 20 percent above average. The indicated U. S. yield of 39.1 bushels per acre is the second highest; last year's record was 42.7 bushels.

Corn supplies for 1949-50 are indicated at 4,173 million bushels, with 815 million bushels of this carried over from last year's crop. Even after allowing for a moderate increase in domestic utilization of corn during the coming year -- principally as a result of increasing hog production -- present

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indications point to a carry-over of corn on October 1, 1950, of around a billion bushels for the first time in history.

Under the recently enacted Agricultural Act of 1949, marketing quotas for the 1950 corn crop could be proclaimed as late as February 1, 1950, if estimated supplies reached the level at which such a proclamation would be mandatory.

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WHEAT COUNCIL GETS UNDER WAY - The International Wheat Council, organized to administer the provisions of the International Wheat Agreement, has made an excellent operational beginning and is functioning smoothly in its day-to-day administration of the Agreement, according to a report by Stanley Andrews, Head of the U. S. Delegation to the second meeting of the Council. The meeting was held in London November 1 to 4.

The time limit for formal acceptance of the Agreement by signatory countries has been extended to February 28, 1950. Countries which have not yet ratified the Agreement are Uruguay, an exporter, and China, Colombia, Liberia, and the Philippine Republic, all importers.

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ETERNAL VIGILANCE NEEDED TO MAINTAIN SOIL - Conservation is a continuous fight against the forces which destroy the productivity of the land, according to _____, chairman of the _____ county FMA Committee. Progress in this struggle, he points out, means extending and maintaining conservation practices carried out in previous years as well as starting new practices which should be incorporated into the farming system. The farmers of _____ county cannot afford to "let the country down by letting up on conservation," says the chairman. With 13 or 14 people -- on the average -- depending on what each farmer produces, neither the farmer nor the nation can afford to waste soil resources either for production that is unneeded or by neglect.

The chairman emphasizes that farmers who carry out conservation practices under FMA's Agricultural Conservation Program are required to maintain practices

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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding dates. The names are: "John Doe", "Jane Smith", "Bob Johnson", "Alice Brown", "Charlie White", "David Green", "Eve Black", "Frank Gray", "Grace Pink", "Henry Blue", "Ivy Yellow", "Jack Purple", "Karen Red", "Leo Orange", "Mia Silver", "Noah Gold", "Olivia Bronze", "Peter Copper", "Quinn Iron", "Rachel Steel", "Sam Tin", "Tina Lead", "Uma Zinc", "Victor Nickel", "Wendy Platinum", "Xavier Silver", "Yara Gold", "Zoe Bronze". The dates are: "1990-01-01", "1990-02-01", "1990-03-01", "1990-04-01", "1990-05-01", "1990-06-01", "1990-07-01", "1990-08-01", "1990-09-01", "1990-10-01", "1990-11-01", "1990-12-01", "1991-01-01", "1991-02-01", "1991-03-01", "1991-04-01", "1991-05-01", "1991-06-01", "1991-07-01", "1991-08-01", "1991-09-01", "1991-10-01", "1991-11-01", "1991-12-01", "1992-01-01", "1992-02-01", "1992-03-01", "1992-04-01", "1992-05-01", "1992-06-01", "1992-07-01", "1992-08-01", "1992-09-01", "1992-10-01", "1992-11-01", "1992-12-01".

carried out in previous years. "If it is determined that previous ACP practices are not being maintained in accordance with good farming practices, or the effectiveness of any such practices is destroyed during the 1950 program year, a deduction shall be made from current practice payments.

"Conservation of our soil and water resources is so vital to the national welfare that every dollar used to assist in carrying out conservation practices must be used to obtain a maximum of protection to the productivity of the land. Farmers of _____ county have a responsibility to see that none of these funds are wasted either in failing to maintain or properly protect practices previously carried out."

In planning conservation practices for 1950, the chairman urges that each farmer of _____ county keep in mind his responsibility to maintain the practices started in past years and to fit his practices in 1950 into a continuing conservation program for the farm.

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EATING HABITS AND LAND USE - Farmers as well as other producers must gear their production to consumer trends, says _____, chairman of the _____ county FMA Committee. "Farmers are limited to certain crops by climate, markets, and soil and water conditions, but within these limits production should be headed in the direction of consumer trends.

Significant changes in eating habits are the clue to changes in farm production, the chairman points out. The trend is toward more leafy vegetables, more citrus and tomatoes, more meat, poultry and eggs, and away from potatoes, sweetpotatoes, grain products and bread.

This trend, says the chairman, should help serve as a guide to farmers in the use of diverted acres -- the land taken out of allotment crops. Some of the allotment crops are on the side of the products of declining use, while good conservation use of the land fits into the trend for more protein foods.

_____ says that consumers should realize that allotments and marketing quotas are not aimed at less food but rather at a more balanced abundance. The wheat allotment does not mean less bread because the allotments have already allowed for as much bread as people have been using plus a safe reserve. The same is true of other crops.

Crop adjustments are based on the effort to use our available soil to produce what is needed, the chairman explains. "Rather than use up good soil fertility in producing more than is needed of some products while there is need for increased production of others, the allotment programs seek to balance production in line with consumer demands and in line with consumer trends. A balanced abundance and reserves in the soil for future abundance are the aims of these programs," the chairman said.

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